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EASTERN

**F.O.
371**

1947

PALESTINE

File No. 48

pp. 8276-8511

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61826

**CLOSED
UNTIL
1978**

61826

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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Piece *61826*

Following document(s)*
retained in the Department of origin*
transferred to PRO Safe Room*

E8276/48/31

and closed until..... *1998*

*delete as necessary

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<p>444 1947 31</p>	<p>Palestine EASTERN</p>	<p>ESQTY / G 8 SEP 1947</p>
<p>ESQTY / 48 / 9 Consulate San Sebastian to E Dept 533-44 (S/3) dated 29 Sep Received 8 Sep.</p>	<p>"Paducah" and "Northwards"</p>	
<p>Last Paper ESQTY6</p>	<p>(Minutes) Copies to: c.o. (Mr. Fyfe) M.I. 5 (Mr. Cohen) ldr. Encked (Labret Office)</p>	
<p>References E6652/48/9.</p>	<p>This rather promising story now seems to have petered out altogether.</p>	
<p>(Print)</p>	<p>News Dept. 9/9</p>	
<p>(How disposed of) c.o. M.I. 5 Cable 07/1 12. Sep</p>	<p>I think Ruckers did reasonably well even unpowdered - 16/9 17/9</p>	
<p>(Action completed) 25/9</p>	<p>(Index) 4/9</p>	
<p>Next Paper</p>		

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61826**

533-47(S/3)

Secret

8 SEP 1947

29th August 1947

3

E8277

Dear Department,

Your B 6652/48/G of the 2nd August 1947 addressed to this post and telegrams Nos. 14 of August 8th and 16 of August 11th to H.M. Consul, Bilbao, for transmission to us regarding the "Paducah" and "Northlands"

2. First of all we should explain that the original report (428-47(S/3) of the 17th July) was sent by this office to the Chancery, Madrid, as its nature at the time was highly confidential, and there being no safe hand or other means of communicating it to H.M. Consul at Bordeaux direct with sufficient rapidity.

3. Some time ago however we advised our informant, who we should explain came forward quite voluntarily, that he should give any further information he might obtain on the subject to H.M. Consul at Bordeaux, or to any person the latter might indicate.

4. Since receiving your communications above mentioned however we have again tried to contact our informant, but unfortunately have not been able to do so as he appears to be away, and we are sure you will agree that it would hardly be proper for us to initiate enquiries in fresh directions now that we know that H.M. Consul at Bordeaux has all the available facts and information regarding the case, including such as we have been able to supply.

5. Regarding your specific queries however we can only say that the powder referred to was definitely supposed by our informant to be gunpowder, but as to the gun mountings we feel reasonably certain that these are relics from the vessels' war service days.

Yours ever,
CONSULATE

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office, S.W.1

c.c. The Chancery, British Embassy, Madrid
H.M. Consul, Bilbao, H.M. Consul, Bordeaux.

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E

E 8287

1947

SEP 1

4

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 8287/48/31

FROM

G. Lavin

No.

Latvian Legation

Dated

3/4/47

Received in Registry

5 M. Dankes
3 Sept
9

Illegal Immigration.

Transmit text of story told by a Latvian Jew now in Paris of how he and his family travelled from Latvia to Poland then to Czechoslovakia, from there to British zone of Germany, and on to Paris, all on forged passports and under auspices of highly efficient organization.

Last Paper

8277

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

ack'd Sept 5

apt. Charney

Prague (enc)
Sept 15

of Berlin no 568

Warsaw no 467
Sept 15

of Athens M.I.S.

Sept 15

(Action completed)

8/26/47

(Index)

28/9/47

Next Paper

8302

(Minutes.)

Letter to M.I.S (Mr. Schur)
(with letter) to:
and ~~made~~ to:
Berlin
Warsaw
Prague

Northern Dept
German (Refugee) Dept. Thank you.
Mangherbergh
This information is not very detailed,
but the Greek authorities might be
warned to beware of Greek passports.
Letter to Prague accordingly. J
9/9

I think it unlikely that the Russians
are encouraging Jewish emigration from Latvia
and I cannot believe that a substantial
movement is going on without their
approval.

James Minchin
18.9.47.

J
26/9

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Action Cont

~~Walters in the~~
Sept - Sun

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E 8287

LATVIAN LEGATION,

entire
E
5

No. 3401.

London, 3rd September, 1947.

Confidential
Dear Mr Hankey,

The week before last my Paris colleague, Dr. Grosvalds, came over here from Brussels for a few days, and he told me a story related to him by a Latvian Jew whom he had known previously and had recently met in Paris. As it appears of some interest I have written it down and take the liberty of sending you it to you.

Believe me
Yours sincerely,
Charles Ferris

The Hon. R.M.A. Hankey,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

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In view of the many reports in the international press about the movements of Jewish people, the following case may be of interest.

Some time ago a Jewish man arrived in Paris with his family and they related their story in confidence to one of their friends. They said that a certain number of Jews have lately been leaving present Latvia. There exists in Riga or elsewhere a very efficient organisation which issues them with Polish passports. With these passports they travel to Poland, where at a certain town they are received by some other Jewish organisation, who change the Polish passports for Greek ones. With the Greek passports they then travel to Czechoslovakia. The passports do not arouse any suspicion because they are so well prepared. They related how one of the Czech frontier guards, saying that he had never heard Greek spoken, asked them to let him hear how it sounded; so they started to speak a strongly accented Yiddish together, and the guard was quite satisfied that he had been listening to Greek. With the same Greek passports they leave Czechoslovakia, mostly for the British Zone of Germany.

Arriving in the British Zone of Germany these people were received in a certain place, not named, by a man in British military uniform but whom they thought might have belonged to a Jewish legion, though they were not sure of this. They were then taken to some other place, given British military uniforms, and with these they arrived in France. There they changed into civilian clothing and sent the military uniforms back. It is not known what they were going to do next, but it appears that the organisation is a very efficient one.

August, 1947

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OUT FILE

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E 8287/48/31

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

5th September, 1947.

Dear Mr. Zarine,

Thank you for your
letter No. 3401 of September 3rd
regarding the illicit movements
of Jews.

His Excellency
Monsieur Charles Zarine,
Latvian Legation,
87, Eaton Place, S.W.1.

47

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61826

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No. E 8287/48/31
J.E.C.

Draft.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

To
Prague Embassy
from
Eastern Dept

Copies to:
Berlin
Warsaw

H.I.S. (Mr. Schen)

OUT FILE
X 3C

109
15 Sept 8

Dear Embassy,
We enclose a copy of a report received from the Latvian Legation in London, suggesting that Jewish illegal immigrants are crossing the frontier from Poland to Czechoslovakia with forged Greek passports.
2. While the report is not very detailed, you may consider it worth passing on to the Czechoslovak authorities.

3. We are sending copies

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:

FO 371 / 61826

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9 copies of this letter to the
bureaus at Berlin and
Warsaw

Yours ever
Eastern Dept.

Jz
9/9

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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OUT FILE

10

FOREIGN OFFICE. S.W.1

15th September, 1947.

(E 8287/48/31)

Restricted.

Dear Chancery,

We enclose a copy of a report received from the Latvian Legation in London, suggesting that Jewish illegal immigrants are crossing the frontier from Poland to Czechoslovakia with forged Greek passports.

2. While the report is not very detailed, you may consider it worth passing on to the Czechoslovak authorities.

3. We are sending copies of this letter to the Chanceries at Berlin and Warsaw.

Yours ever,

, EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Prague.

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302

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E 8302

2 SEP 1947

1947

PALESTINE

11

Registry Number

E 8302/45/31

FROM

F.O. Minute

No.

411 Beith

Dated

Sept. 3

Received in Registry

~ 9

Suggestion to bring Jews to President Wayfield to England.

Text of conversation with Mr Norman Bentwich who, with some friends had considered possibility of sending Jews to England. It was agreed to avoid possible serious trouble when Jews were disembarked at Hamburg.

Last Paper

8287

(Minutes.)

Paul
(C.E. CABLE)

9/9

JB Sept 9

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

G.C.M. 9/9

(Index)

[Signature]
28/9/48

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8304

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61828

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Minutes.
E 8302

F
entire

Mr. Norman Bentwich called at the Foreign Office and, at the request of Mr. Henniker, I saw him.

2. He came in connexion with the forthcoming arrival of the "President Warfield" Jews at Hamburg and explained that he and some friends of his had been considering the possibility of bringing these Jews to England. He made it clear that he was speaking for no particular body and that he could give no guarantee that the illegal immigrants would be willing to land in England. He had not, for instance, consulted the Jewish Agency.

3. Mr. Bentwich spoke very moderately and said that he was only concerned to avoid possible serious troubles when the Jews were disembarked at Hamburg. I explained the background to this question and said that, as far as I was aware, it would be almost impossible to find suitable accommodation for such a large number in the United Kingdom within the few days notice now available. Admission into the United Kingdom was essentially a matter for the Home Office and I thought that they might well find it difficult to agree to the proposal. I could hold out little hope that the present suggestion could be adopted but I thanked Mr. Bentwich for calling to communicate it.

J. G. S. Beith

(J. G. S. Beith).
3rd September, 1947.

This possibility suggestion has already been considered - admittedly rather summarily, - and turned down in view of the obvious practical difficulties and security complications which it would entail. I do not think there is any point in going into it again.

Mr. Henniker, 5/9

5/9

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1947

E

E 8304

PALESTINE

SEP 1947

13

Registry Number

E 8304/48/31

FROM

Legation Stockholm

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

24.9.
1 Sept
9

Protests against sending Jews to Germany.
Transmit correspondence from Jewish
Organisations in Sweden dated 26 & 27th
and 29th Aug. Protesting against transport
of illegal immigrants ex President Warfield
to Hamburg.

Last Paper

8302 (8015)

(Minutes.)

References

We have already given Stockholm
the ammunition required, if they consider
a reply is needed. Please see E 8057

[Signature]
9/9

(Print)

Northern Dept. 6.4.11.13 11/9.

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

[Signature]
7/12/9

(Index)

[Signature]
28/9/48

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8306

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No. 249 ✓
54/134/47

E 8304

E 14

HIS Majesty's Minister
at Stockholm
presents his compliments to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit to him the under-
mentioned documents.

British Legation
Stockholm.

1st September, 1947

Reference to previous correspondence

Foreign Office telegram No. 2468 of 22nd August to Berlin

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Correspondence from Jewish organisations in Sweden dated 26th, 27th and 29th August, and H.M. Legation's acknowledgement dated 1st September, 1947.	Transport of illegal immigrants from Port le Bouc to Hamburg.

1	2	3	4	5	6

References:

FO 371 / 61826

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Copy of a telegram dated 26th August, 1947, addressed to H.M. Minister by the World Jewish Congress, Swedish Section, The Scandinavian Jewish Youth Association, The Jewish Student Club, The Jewish Club Association of Polish Jews in Sweden, The Association of Roumanian Jews in Sweden, Hechaluz in Sweden, Bachad in Sweden, The League for the Working Palestine in Sweden.

We express our indignation and our deep sorrow about the decision of the Government of Great Britain to send the 4300 Jewish refugees on the ship Exodus to Germany to the land which is imbued with Jewish blood. We demand to permit these 4300 Jews to come to Palestine. We apply to the Swedish Government to intervene at the British Government to open the gates of Palestine for the Jews on Exodus. We apply to the President of the Palestine Commission at Geneva Justice Emil Sandström, to intervene for the permission of these Jews to come to Palestine. We apply to the Palestine Commission and the whole civilized world to find a righteous solution for the problem of Palestine in the way to accord a possibility of unlimited emigration to Palestine for all the Jews who wish to settle there and especially for the homeless Jews in the camps.

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COPY

MOSAISKA FÖRSAMLINGEN,
Wahrendorffsgatan 3,
Stockholm.

To H.B.M. Minister
The British Legation
Strandvägen 82
Stockholm.

The Undersigned humbly requests, on behalf of the
Jewish communities in Sweden, that the attached resolution
may be forwarded, through your intermediary, to the
Government of Great Britain.

Stockholm, 27th August, 1947.

(Signed) Gunnar Josephson
Chairman of the Jewish Community in
Stockholm.

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17

To the Government of Great Britain:

The Jewish Communities in Sweden, deeply moved by the melancholy fate which threatens the unfortunate homeless people on board s.s. President Warfield (Exodus), wish to express their brotherly sympathy for these people who are so grievously tried. We appeal to the people and to the Government of Great Britain, so that these unfortunates may be spared the tragic fate and shame of being returned to a country in which the Jewish people have suffered a cruel mass extermination without parallel in the history of mankind.

We renew our appeal to the Government of Great Britain to make possible the immigration to Palestine of as many as possible of the great number of homeless Jews.

Stockholm, 27th August, 1947.

Mosaiska Församlingen i Stockholm

M. Ehrenpreis	Gunnar Josephson
Emil Kronheim	Leodor Levy
Boris Meyerson	Samuel Nisell

Erik Wolff

Mosaiska Församlingen i Göteborg

Herman Löb	M.R. Henriques
Herbert Sterner	N. Garellick

Mosaiska Församlingen i Malmö

David Grünwald	Albert Marlow	Leopold Levin
Elias Silbersky	Isidor Kamras	Iyar Feldbaum
J.E. Benjamin	Boris Levinschal	

Mosaiska Församlingen i Norrköping

Sven Hirsch	Salomon Taitz
-------------	---------------

Mauritz Stern

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FO 371 / 61826

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18

Copy of telegram dated 29th August from the Zionists
Society and Wizo, Stockholm, to H.M. Minister.

To the British Government, London: Assembled here
to-day to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first
Zionist congress, we feel it a heavy duty to express our
emphatic protests to the British Government against the
fate of our tortured brethren and sisters of the Exodus
caused by the British Government's action against them.
In the name of humanity we appeal to the British Government
as representatives of the British people not to return them
to the country of their disaster but to mitigate their
sufferings and their great calamity by opening the gates of
Palestine for them.

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19

24/134/17

1st September, 1947.

Sir,

I am directed by His Majesty's Minister to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 27th August, 1947, together with the enclosed note from Jewish communities in Sweden.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) G.S. Littlejohn Cook

Secretary of Legation

H. Gunnar Jacobson,
Sveavägen 17,
Stockholm.

JDR

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61826**

FOREIGN OFFICE. S.W.1

(F 7770/48/31)

At the risk of repeating much that was included in the two official comminiques issued in London on the 21st and 23rd August on this subject, I should like to explain briefly the facts of the present case. On the 18th July 4,554 Jews were intercepted on board the s.s. PRESIDENT WARFIELD in an attempt to enter Palestine illegally. They had left France with forged Colombian visas of destination, in contravention of the International Conventions for the Safety of Life at Sea and Load Lines. This ship of under 2,000 tons was far too small to carry anything like 4,500 people in safety, let alone in proper conditions of sanitation. The French authorities had instructed the ship not to leave, but she cut her hawsers.

The case of the PRESIDENT WARFIELD represented a particularly flagrant example of the activities of those responsible for organising the Jewish illegal immigration traffic. As you will be aware, His Majesty's Government and the Government of Palestine have for some time been gravely embarrassed in their exercise of the Palestine Mandate and in the maintenance of peace and internal security in Palestine by this Jewish illegal immigrant traffic. They are bound to enforce the present immigration quotas of 1,500 a month for Jews and they would have no justification, in the present interim period before the United Nations make a recommendation regarding the future of Palestine, for altering this quota. Immigration policy is of cardinal importance to the Palestine problem and all concerned should await the decision of the United Nations in this regard. Nevertheless, the organisers of the illegal immigrant traffic are at present trying to exceed the quota with the object of upsetting the balance of population in the country, and are thereby aggravating an already tense and delicate situation which has led to bloodshed between Arabs and Jews.

In view of the exceptional size of the PRESIDENT WARFIELD contingent and of the illicit manner in which they left France, His Majesty's Government had no alternative but to arrange for the return of the illegal immigrants to their country of embarkation, France. It had become evident that the policy of sending illegal immigrants to camps in Cyprus, where they qualify for inclusion in the legal immigration quota to Palestine, had only served to encourage the stream of illegal immigrants which has for months been flowing from Eastern Europe via countries with a Mediterranean seaboard. It is noteworthy that a large part of this stream consists, not of refugees, but of Jews who have been encouraged by the organisers of the traffic to leave their homes in Eastern Europe. The organisers select the immigrants with little regard to humanitarian considerations. The older people, perhaps with relatives in Palestine who would qualify on those grounds are regularly passed over in favour of young men and women and expectant mothers (the latter most unsuited to face the appalling conditions of overcrowding in which they are sent to Palestine). Parents are encouraged to send their children

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on the understanding that they are to be legal immigrants. A case has just arisen where a number of Hungarian parents have asked to have back their children from amongst the PRESIDENT WARFIELD party when it arrives in the British Zone; they were misled by the organisers of the traffic to think that their children were to be admitted on the legal quota.

To revert to the events following the return of the 4,500 illegal immigrants to France. The British transports were left at Port de Bouc for three weeks in the hope that their passengers would accept the French offer of hospitality and disembark in France. When it became clear that the illegal immigrants would not agree to land and that the French Government would not constrain them to do so, it was necessary to find a destination for them under British jurisdiction. In the light of the general situation in regard to the illegal immigrant traffic which I have briefly explained above, His Majesty's Government were quite clear that it would be undesirable to send the illegal immigrants back to Cyprus. They considered a number of destinations in British Colonial territory but in no case was it possible to arrange adequate accommodation at short notice for such a large number of people. It was therefore reluctantly decided to send the illegal immigrants temporarily to the British Zone on Germany, the only place where accommodation could be provided at short notice, and to continue to press the French Government to receive them back through the British Zone.

There has been much criticism of the decision to send these Jews to Germany. For the reasons I have given above, no alternative destination was available. It should be remembered, moreover, that this territory is administered by His Majesty's Government and that the illegal immigrants will be looked after by the British military administration and not by Germans. Moreover, as you will clearly see, there was absolutely no need for them to go to Germany at all. They have spent three weeks waiting off a French port with every facility and encouragement to go ashore, both from the French and British side. They, and those who inspire them, have chosen instead to make a political point of refusing to land, thereby causing His Majesty's Government to send them to a destination which is unwelcome to everyone concerned. It is, moreover, the hope of His Majesty's Government that after their arrival in Hamburg it will be possible for the illegal immigrants to pass through Germany into France.

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Palestine

E8306 / G

9 SEP 1947

445

31

E8306/48/G

Illegal immigration: Comments
on decisions of two-departmental
committee

22

Mr Ashley Clarke
Paris

876

Dated 8 Sept

Received 9 Sept.

Last Paper.

E8277

(Minutes.)

See separate minute

The Beirut
Sept. 10

References.

E8503/48/G

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) 11P

70) Subst. etc. 1968

11 Sept

Rpd. Recl. 2723

Paris 2030

W/lon 9370

8) 11P

13 Sept

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

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W.H.

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File
E2306

9 SEP 1947

Cypher/OTP. CABINET DISTRIBUTION.

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

23

Mr. Ashley Clarke. D. 5.40 p.m. 8th September 1947.
No. 876.
8th September 1947. R. 5.45 p.m. 8th September 1947.

Repeated to: Lubbecke,
Hamburg (for Regional Commissioner);
Jerusalem,
Washington,
Berlin,
Steinberg Kiel (for Regional Commissioner).

W:W:W:W:W

MOST IMMEDIATE.

SECRET.

Foreign Office please pass Most Immediate to Lubbecke, and Hamburg (for Regional Commissioner); Important to Jerusalem, Washington, Berlin and Steinberg Kiel (for Regional Commissioner), as my telegrams Nos. 8, 24, 46, 196, 138 and 3 respectively.

My telegram No.6 to Lubbecke: Illegal Jewish immigration.

M. Bousquet showed me this morning confidentially a memorandum setting forth arrangements agreed upon by the Inter-departmental Commission on 30th August for the reception of volunteers from among the illegal immigrants who wish to come to France. Summary is contained in my immediately following telegram.

2. You will see that essence is that the British authorities should issue a collective travel document for parties leaving for France and that this will be viséd by the French Consul-General at Hamburg. On arrival at the British side of the frontier of the French Zone (probably Remagen) a French mission containing medical and security officers will meet each party, vet them and satisfy themselves that the individuals concerned are genuinely volunteers.

3. With regard to paragraph (A) in my immediately following telegram M. Bousquet agreed that it was for the British authorities to decide at what moment and to what extent to associate Jewish organisations with the proceedings.

4. With regard to paragraph (E) M. Bousquet agreed that a first party could probably be received within 8-10 days from now, provided it were not too numerous.

5. Please confirm that these arrangements are acceptable.

[Repeated to Washington and Berlin. Copies sent to Message Control, Norfolk House, for repetition to Lubbecke, Hamburg and Steinberg Kiel. Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem].

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S. Dept

24

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP. CABINET DISTRIBUTION.

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Ashley Clarke. D. 5.40 p.m. 8th September 1947.
No. 876.
8th September 1947. R. 5.45 p.m. 8th September 1947.

Repeated to: Lubbecke,
Hamburg (for Regional Commissioner);
Jerusalem,
Washington,
Berlin.
Steinberg Kiel (for Regional Commissioner).

W:W:W:W:W

MOST IMMEDIATE.
SECRET.

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5. Please confirm that these arrangements are acceptable.

[Repeated to Washington and Berlin. Copies sent to Message Control, Norfolk House, for repetition to Lubbecke, Hamburg and Steinberg Kiel. Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem].

I suppose we must accept but the track after acting against an appeal to be exacting in 2/3

I suppose we must accept but the track after acting against an appeal to be exacting in 2/3

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Registry
No. E 8306/48/4

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Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Open

~~9 + 0 = 9~~ 111

Draft.

Luthecke

Tel. 4468 Bane

IMMEDIATE

Report Berlin
2723

Jerusalem

Paris 2030

Washington
934

important

Paris tels. nos 876 and 877 [of Sept. 8th : Jewish illegal immigration]

Please report as soon as possible ~~what~~ the

arrangements you are making to announce to the Jews our plan to send all who wish to go to France, and how soon we are likely to know how many "volunteers" there are.

Cypher

Sept 1. No. 2

J. S. Bevin
Sept. 10

Mr Irving agrees

Copies V.P.

J. S. Bevin
10/9

2. It would be useful to have ~~the~~ a preliminary estimate ~~of those who~~ ~~based the Jews~~ as to the likelihood of a large

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(83654) Wt. 14696/147 75,000 6/47 A. & E. W. Ltd. Gp. 685

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371 / 61826**

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20

large number wishing to go to France.

3. Everything possible should be done to prevent the mass of illegal immigrants from being organised again by the leaders who sought to prevent them from disembarking. Can these men be strictly segregated until volunteers have been called for and have left?

Press reports indicate that at any rate some of them have been segregated already.

JAGB
10.9

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1	2	3	4	5	6
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27

E 8506/48/G
Confidential
Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO LUBBECKE

(To Office of Political Adviser to C.-in-C. Germany)

No. 4968 Basic

10th September, 1947 D. 9.40 a.m. 11th September, 1947

Repeated to Berlin No. 2723 (Important)
Jerusalem (Important)
Paris No. 2030 (Important)
Washington No. 9370 (Important)

8 8 8 8 8

IMMEDIATE

Paris telegrams Nos. 876 and 877 [of September 8th:
Jewish illegal immigration].

Please report as soon as possible the arrangements
you are making to announce to the Jews our plan to send
all who wish to go to France, and how soon we are likely
to know how many "volunteers" there are.

2. It would be useful to have a preliminary estimate
as to the likelihood of a large number wishing to go to
France.

3. Everything possible should be done to prevent the
mass of illegal immigrants from being organised again
by the leaders who sought to prevent them from dis-
embarking. Can these men be strictly segregated until
volunteers have been called for and have left? Press
reports indicate that at any rate some of them have been
segregated already.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61826

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Palestine
EASTERN

E8307 / G

9 SEP 1948

446

31

E8307 / 48 / G

Illegal immigration: 28
Decisions of Interdepartmental
Commission

Mr Ashley Clarke
Paris

847

Dated 8 Sept
Received 9 Sept

Last Paper.

(E8306)

(Minutes.)

APP

References.

See separate minute
E8503/48/G.

J.S. Beir
Sept 10

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) 11P

T(2) Paris 2039

11 Sept

R(2) Lubbock

Jerusalem

Berlin 2786

W'lon 9403

8) 11P

✓ 13 Sept

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

25 29 / 9

W.P.

Next Paper.

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FO 371 / 61826

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F830Y
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Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

SEP 1947

29

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Ashley Clarke
No. 877

D. 5.47 p.m. 8th September, 1947.

8th September, 1947.

R. 5.56 p.m. 8th September, 1947.

Repeated to : Berlin
Lubbecke
Hamburg
(for Regional Commissioner)
Steinberg Kiel (for Regional Commissioner)
Washington
Jerusalem

MOST IMMEDIATE

MM

SECRET

Foreign Office please pass Most Immediate to Lubbecke and Hamburg and Important to Berlin, Steinberg Kiel, Washington and Jerusalem, as my telegrams Nos. 9, 25, 159, 4, 197 and 47 respectively.

My immediately preceding telegram: illegal Jewish immigration.

Following are the main decisions of Interdepartmental Commission:

(A) It will be for the British authorities to determine in the first place whether the refugees wish or do not wish to come to France and to provide "Stateless Person" travel documents in the form of collective passports which will be presented to French Consul-General, Hamburg, by representatives of Jewish organisations accompanied by British authorities.

(B) French Consul-General will give them collective entry visas into France to count against normal quota open to Jews for temporary residence in France.

(C) Formalities and necessary sanitary operations prior to entry into France to take place in the British Zone with the help of British doctors.

(D) At France-British frontier post on British side a French Mission, including security and medical services, having previously received from French Consul-General, Hamburg, list of entry visas and names of beneficiaries, will check that persons named on this list are genuine volunteers. The sanitary inspection, having already taken place in the British Zone, will be much simplified at the frontier.

(E)

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FO 371 / 61826

(E) Entr'aide Francaise will place holiday camps at disposal of immigrants. No immigrants can be accepted before the end of this month since the camps will not be emptied before then.

(F) French railways will require at least one week's notice of the transport schedules.

2. Full text follows by bag.

[Repeated to Berlin and Washington.
Copies sent to Message Control, Norfolk House,
for repetition to Lubbecke, Hamburg and
Steinberg Kiel.
Copies sent to Telegraph Section, Colonial Office,
for repetition to Jerusalem.]

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FO 371 / 61826

Registry
No. E 307/48/G

Top Secret
Secret
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Open

J. G. S. E.

F. O.

11 September, 1947.

Despatched 8.45 P M.

Draft.

H.M. Amb.
PARIS.

IMMEDIATE.

Telegram.

No. 2039

(Date) Sept 11

Repeat to:—

~~LUBBEKE.~~ Immediate

~~JERUSALEM.~~

~~BERLIN.~~

No. 2736

~~WASHINGTON.~~

No. 9403

German Refugee Dept.

~~XXXXXX~~ agree

~~XXXXX~~

Cypher.

Distribution:—

Cabinet.

J.G.S. Berlin
Sept. 11

Copies to:—

I. I. P.

Your telegrams Nos. 876 and 877
[of September 8th: Jewish illegal
immigration].

I agree generally to the detailed
arrangements proposed by the French Government,
subject to the following observations:—

- (a) under decision (A) of the Inter-
departmental Commission I cannot
accept that "representatives of
"Jewish organisations" have any
locus standi in this matter, which
is essentially one for arrangement
between H.M.G. and the French
Government. I understand that
the French are making it clear that
they mean representatives of the
"President Warfield" illegal
immigrants;
- (b) under decision (D) I am not very
happy about the proposal that a
French Mission at the frontier should
"check that persons named on the
list are genuine volunteers." I
fear that this might leave us with
another Port de Bouc incident at
the last minute, with all its
attendant damage to Anglo-French
relations. I think the emphasis
should be placed on determining the
wishes/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(13556) Wt. 43697-140 100m 3147 G.S.St. Gp 620

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61826

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32

wishes of the Jews before departure from the British zone and I welcome the suggestion that a representative of the French Consulate-General at Hamburg should travel down with the Jews. This

representative should surely be in a position to testify ~~to the identity~~ ^{that these are the Jews who} landed at Hamburg, ^{that they are willing to enter France} and wishes of the Jews.

2. Please see also my telegram No. 4968 Basic

to Lubbecke to which I await a reply before final arrangements can be concerted with the French authorities.

CRAS
11/9

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61828**

Green 33

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Confidential.

Cypher/OTP.

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

No. 2039.

D. 8.45 p.m. 11th September, 1947.

11th September, 1947.

Repeated to Lubbecke No. U/N Immediate
Jerusalem No. U/N
Berlin No. 2736
Washington No. 9403.

IMMEDIATE.

Your telegrams Nos. 876 and 877 [of September 8th: Jewish illegal immigration].

I agree generally to the detailed arrangements proposed by the French Government, subject to the following observations:-

(a) under decision (A) of the Inter-departmental Commission I cannot accept that "representatives of Jewish organisations" have any locus standi in this matter, which is essentially one for arrangement between His Majesty's Government and the French Government. I understand that the French are making it clear that they mean representatives of the "President Warfield" illegal immigrants;

(b) under decision (D) I am not very happy about the proposal that a French Mission at the frontier should "check that persons named on the list are genuine volunteers". I fear that this might leave us with another Port de Bouc incident at the last minute, with all its attendant damage to Anglo-French relations. I think the emphasis should be placed on determining the wishes of the Jews before departure from the British zone and I welcome the suggestion that a representative of the French Consulate-General at Hamburg should travel down with the Jews. This representative should surely be in a position to testify that these are the Jews who landed at Hamburg and that they are willing to enter France.

2. Please see also my telegram No. 4968 Basic to Lubbecke to which I await a reply before final arrangements can be concerted with the French authorities.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61826**

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1947 447	Palestine EASTERN	E8308 / G 9 SEP 1947
E8308 / 48/C Mr Ashley Clarke Paris 878 Dated 8 Sept Received 9 Sept.	Illegal immigration: Message 34 from <u>Ent'aide Française</u> .	
Last Paper. E8307 References. E8069 / 48/C.	(Minutes.) See separate minute on E8069 J.S. Beir Sept 10 Tel. sent.	
(Print.)	N.B. 11/9	
(How disposed of.) 8) I.P. 9 Sept Tel) Paris no 2038 Sept. 11. H. Rpt. Jerusalem 8) I.P. 16 Sept		
(Action completed.) 25/9	(Index.) 	
Next Paper.		

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61826**

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file
E8308
35

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1
9 SEP 1947

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Ashley Clarke.
No.878

D. 6.04 p.m. 8th September, 1947

8th September, 1947 R. 6.07 p.m. 8th September, 1947

Repeated to Jerusalem
(Foreign Office please pass to Jerusalem as
my telegram No. 48).

.....

MOST IMMEDIATE

TOP SECRET

My telegram No.851. Illegal Jewish immigration.

While I was with M. Bousquet this morning he received message from Entr'aide Francaise that American Joint Distribution Committee had informed them that if His Majesty's Government granted definite monthly quota of visas for Palestine open to Jews in France they would co-operate in bringing President Warfield Jews back to France but not otherwise.

2. M. Bousquet again suggested desirability of granting quota for Jews who have entered France legally. This would naturally apply to any volunteers from the President Warfield. He thought that an immediate announcement in the sense of the foregoing would help us in disposing of the Jews who are now in process of landing.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section, Colonial Office, for repetition to Jerusalem].

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Registry
No. E8308/48/4

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

36

J.G.S.B.

Despatched 8:30 P M.

September, 1947.

Draft.

PARIS.

IMMEDIATE.

Confidential

Telegram.

No. 2038

Your telegram No. 878 of September 8th: Jewish illegal immigration.

Dated. Sept 11

We await the comments of the Acting High

CYPHER.

Commissioner at Jerusalem on this proposal,

Repeat to:-

but, in the meanwhile, it may be assumed that our ~~have the following interim reply,~~ must be as follows.

JERUSALEM.

No.

2. We are limited to a total Jewish

M Beeky fruit

immigration quota of 1,500 per month, which

Co. agree

cannot be changed during the present interim period before a United Nations ~~decision is reached~~ ^{action is taken on recommendation}

J.B. Sept. 11

Half of this quota is used for clearing the camps at Cyprus and there are ~~overriding~~ ^{strong} practical reasons why this

Departmental No. 1.

arrangement ~~must~~ ^{should} be maintained for the present.

Copies to:-

I. I. P.

Between 250 and 300 ^{permits} a month are allocated to the British zones of Germany and Austria and 25 to the French zones. The High Commissioner is particularly keen

on keeping the remaining 400 or so ^{a month} for

compassionate cases in all European countries including France. As there are 6,000 of these cases on the Government of Palestine's

books (which have had to be temporarily closed) there is strong objection to cutting

down this residual amount.

3. I think it is best to face the fact that we ~~cannot~~ ^{are very unlikely to be able to} meet the French in their

suggestion/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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38

E 8308/48/G

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 1

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

No. 2038

D. 8.30 p.m. 11th September, 1947

11th September, 1947

Repeated to Jerusalem

u u u u u

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram No. 878 [of September 8th: Jewish illegal immigration].

We await the comments of the Acting High Commissioner at Jerusalem on this proposal, but, in the meanwhile, our reply must be as follows.

2. We are limited to a total Jewish immigration quota of 1,500 per month, which cannot be changed during the present interim period before action is taken on a United Nations recommendation. Half of this quota is used for clearing the camps at Cyprus and there are strong practical reasons why this arrangement should be maintained for the present. Between 250 and 300 permits a month are allocated to the British zones of Germany and Austria and 25 to the French Zones. The High Commissioner is particularly keen on keeping the remaining 400 or so a month for compassionate cases in all European countries including France. As there are 6,000 of these cases on the Government of Palestine's books (which have had to be temporarily closed) there is strong objection to cutting down this residual amount.

3. I think it is best to face the fact that we are very unlikely to be able to meet the French in their suggestion and thereby single them out for special treatment amongst European countries. Quite apart from the question of principle involved, the quota is too small to be further sub-divided.

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FO 371 / 61826

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107

1947

E

E 8324

39

PALESTINE

17 SEP 1

Registry Number

E8324/48/31

FROM

I. M. Walsh

No.

Budapest

Dated

25/7

Received in Registry

14 Sept 10

Illegal Immigration, Rumania & Hungary.
Refers Budapest dispatch 125 (E4325/48/31)
Report activities of Mr. Szeghegyi, ally of
Kutner, re transit camp in residential
quarter of Budapest.

Last Paper

8314

(Mirrors.)

Copies to:

C.D.
M.A. 5

usual names

References

✓ Southern Dept. 15/9.

J. B. Cable
(J.E. CABLE)
10/9

J.B. Sept. 10

(Print)

(How disposed of)

of Higham 80

~~Exempt~~

Robertson M.I.C.

Sept. 11

(Action completed)

J. E. Cable 16/9

(Index)

[Signature] 26/9/48

Next Paper

8344

39538

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61826

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British Political Mission in Hungary,
Budapest.

E
40

OPEN

No. 257
(12/32/47)

E 8324

4th September, 1947.

E 4721/48

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Helm's despatch No. 125 of 14th May, 1947, regarding the illegal residence and transit of Jews in Hungary, I have the honour to report that upon hearing of the existence of a camp in a residential quarter of Budapest, where it was alleged up to eight hundred people had resided and that they were Jews in transit to Palestine, I caused enquiries to be made of Mr. Szebenyi, Under Secretary in the Ministry of the Interior.

2. Mr. Szebenyi said that ~~when~~ he had already learned of the existence of this camp and that on doing so he had immediately sent detectives to investigate but that when they arrived the camp had already been vacated. He said that this camp would not be again used for illegal residents or transit, and further stated that the authorities had been investigating two or three other suspicious camps, but he declined to go into details. As on a previous occasion Mr. Szebenyi was friendly and inclined to be helpful, but in a somewhat abstract manner. For instance, he talked in general about the undesirability of people roaming about Hungary without proper identity documents or permits for residence or transit. He said that since "stabilisation" in Roumania, the number of people entering Hungary illegally from there had decreased, but the frontier control on the Roumanian side was almost non-existent and the Hungarians were unable to post sufficient guards along it. Mr. Szebenyi said that the authorities were doing everything in their power to stop this illegal traffic and endeavoured to send back all illegal immigrants to whence they came. There was practically no illegal crossing of the Yugoslav-Hungarian frontier because co-operation between the guards on each side was most satisfactory.

3. Mentioning the case of the "Exodus" Mr. Szebenyi said that of recent months many Jews, who claimed to be of Hungarian nationality, have applied to Hungarian Missions in Europe, he mentioned Paris particularly, for permission to re-enter Hungary. These people, he assumed, had left the country with the hope of getting into Palestine, but after considerable wandering and delay realised that they had been deceived and preferred to return home. He said that in most cases there was no objection to their return, and permission was granted after investigation of each individual case. Minors under the age of sixteen, such as most of the children on the "Exodus", would be allowed to return to Hungary, provided their Hungarian nationality was in no doubt, without investigation as it would be assumed that they had a "clean political slate".

4. Mr. Szebenyi further said that whilst the charitable activities of the American Joint Committee were welcome and appreciated by the authorities, as the Committee brought both provisions and money to Hungary, he had some suspicion concerning the rôle played by a few of the leading people in the

/Committee

The Right Honourable
Ernest Bevin, M.P.,
etc. etc. etc.

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Palestine

E8314 / G

EASTERN

9 SEP 1947 42

1047

448

E 8314 / 48 / 31/6

Illegal immigration: Instructions from Panamanian Govt.

Panama
85

Dated 8 Sept
Received 9 Sept.

Last Paper.

E8308

References.

EY618 / 48 / 9

(Minutes.)

Referred to Paris, Sofia and Bucharest.

Please see E 8350 / 84 / 31

[Signature]
10/4

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61826

• E

Green

E8314

= 9 SEP 1947

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM PANAMA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

43

Mr. Greenway
No. 85

D. 2.10 p.m. 8th September 1947.
R. 9.26 p.m. 8th September 1947.

8th September 1947.

V V V

IMPORTANT.

Your telegram No. 92.

Panamanian Government have at last replied saying instructions have been issued to masters and owners of these ships not to engage in illegal traffic: adding Panamanian law does not permit cancellation of registration without certain formalities not yet fulfilled. They therefore ask for all information and proof possessed by His Majesty's Government.

In other words they propose to do nothing about it whatever, my French colleague complains that his representations on this subject are totally ignored.

Could you impress on the Panamanian Minister in London the importance of early action being taken?

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat.]

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E8344/48/31

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61826

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E 8377

1947

44

Registry Number

E 8377/45/31

FROM

Embassy

No.

Paris

Dated

7/68

Received in Registry

8 Sept
11

Jewish Refugees in President Warfield
Enclosed copy of note from Ministry
of Foreign Affairs dated Sept 1. re
the Jewish Refugees in President Warfield

Last Paper

8344

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8/ B.O. (Migdon)
M.I.5. (Scherr)
Sept. 12

(Action completed)

J. C. [Signature]

(Index)

[Signature]
28/4/48

Next Paper

8378

This is a most ^(Minutes.) uncivilized statement
and the final paragraph is deplorable.

Copies to: ~~Barbie~~ Co.
~~Sublet~~ M.I.5.

MFA
German (Refugee) Dept
Western Dept.

[Signature]
(T.E. CABLE)

11/9

Rather interesting. This seems
to be a sort of French Cabinet
conclusions and the final para.
is revealing about the intentions
of the present Cabinet in regard
to preventing further departures.

J. B. [Signature]
Sept. 11

[Signature]
11/9

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Reference: FO 371 / 61826

768

HIS Majesty's Ambassador Paris
presents his compliments to H.M.P.S.^{at} of S. for
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British..... Embassy,.....
..... Paris

E 8377

8th. September 1947..

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy of Note from Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Direction Générale des Conventions administratives et Sociales), dated 1st September, 1947.	Jewish refugees from the "Exodus".

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61826**

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46

Direction Générale des
Conventions Administratives
et Sociales.

1er Septembre 1947

NOTE

Accueil en France des
réfugiés de l'Exodus.

La Commission réunie à la Présidence du Conseil
le 30 août, en vue de définir les conditions tech-
niques dans lesquelles la décision du dernier Conseil
des Ministres relative aux réfugiés de l'Exodus
pourrait être appliquée, a abouti aux conclusions
suivantes :

En zone britannique
d'Allemagne.

1°- a) C'est aux autorités britanniques qu'il
appartiendra de constater en premier lieu si les
réfugiés de l'Exodus sont ou non volontaires pour
la France. Dès qu'elles seront fixées ~~sur le nombre~~
sur le nombre des volontaires, les autorités
britanniques établiront des documents de voyage
pour apatrides sous forme de passeports collectifs
qui seront présentés [par des délégués des organi-
sations israélites] accompagnés des représentants
des autorités britanniques, au Consul Général de
France à Hambourg.

b) Le Consul Général leur accordera des visas

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61826**

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collectifs d'entrée en France, à valoir sur le contingent ⁴⁷
normal, ouvert pour le séjour temporaire, en France, des
Israélites. Cette mesure est notamment indispensable pour
permettre, le cas échéant, l'appui financier de l'O.I.R. à
l'entretien des immigrants. Cette organisation avait en effet
refusé de prêter son concours à Port de Bouc parce que les
immigrants étaient considérés comme entrés illégalement en
France avant leur départ de Sète.

c) Les formalités et opérations sanitaires nécessaires
préalables à l'entrée en France auront lieu dans la zone britanni-
que et avec le concours de médecins britanniques.

Contrôle
à la
front-
ière
franco-
aise.

2° - Au poste frontière franco-britannique, mais du côté
britannique de la frontière, une mission française comprenant
services de sécurité et médecins, qui aura reçu au préalable
communication, par le Consulat Général de France à Hambourg,
de la liste des visas d'entrée en France, et des noms des
bénéficiaires, s'assurera que les personnes inscrites sur cette
liste sont bien volontaires pour la France.

La visite sanitaire, ayant déjà été effectuée en zone
britannique, sera très simplifiée à la frontière.

3°- Financement du séjour des réfugiés en France.

Les services compétents s'efforceront d'obtenir
l'assentiment des organisations israélites à l'entretien des
immigrants de l'Exodus. A défaut, cette charge devra incomber à
L'O.I.R. Celle-ci pourrait d'autant moins se dérober que les
immigrants pénétreront cette fois en France dans des conditions
absolument régulières.

M. Bousquet entretiendra M. Tuck de cette question lors

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:

FO 371 / 61826

du prochain passage à Paris de ce dernier.

Les avances nécessaires seront assurées par le Ministère des Finances au profit duquel seront effectués les remboursements soit par les organisations israélites, soit par l'O.I.R.

4^o- Hébergement. - L'Entr'Aide française mettra à la disposition des immigrants ses camps de vacances devenus disponibles (il s'agit de 5 ou 6 camps, dont celui de Costebelle, dans le Var pouvant contenir à lui seul 1200 personnes).

Des aménagements seront apportés aux camps en question pour permettre aux immigrants de passer éventuellement la période d'hiver.

5^o- Transport. - La S.N.C.F. devra être informée du plan de transport au moins une semaine avant sa réalisation (point de destination en France, échelonnement des départs via zone française d'occupation etc...).

6^o- Ravitaillement. - Les Services du Ravitaillement assureront la mise en place des denrées à débloquent au profit des camps de vacances appelés à recevoir les immigrants. L'Entr'Aide française fournira, sur ses stocks, les denrées nécessaires pendant les premiers jours.

7^o Conclusion. - Compte tenu des indications qui précèdent, il ne paraît pas possible d'être en état d'accueillir les immigrants de l'Exodus avant la fin du présent mois. Les camps de vacances ne seront en effet évacués qu'à cette date de leurs occupants actuels.

+

+ +

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FO 371 / 61826

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En vue de l'application d'une formule susceptible de traduire dans les faits la décision du Conseil des Ministres d'éviter en France le retour des incidents qui ont marqué le départ de l'Exodus du port de Sète, M. Bousquet propose que, d'accord avec le Gouvernement britannique, un contingent normal aussi élevé que possible soit accordé à la France pour l'émigration régulière, en Palestine, des israélites résidant sur son territoire.

Le Gouvernement britannique a, à notre demande, accordé un contingent de 25 personnes par mois à la zone française d'Allemagne. Or celle-ci ne comporte pas actuellement d'Israélites. Il a donc suggéré que le contingent de la Zone française d'Allemagne soit attribué à la France et majoré de manière à comprendre le plus grand nombre possible d'israélites.

Il pourrait être entendu que si des départs clandestins avaient lieu à destination de la Palestine, le Gouvernement britannique se réserverait le droit de supprimer le contingent ainsi accordé. Ce système aurait pour effet d'amener les organisations israélites à se montrer beaucoup plus réticentes pour l'organisation des départs clandestins vers la Palestine. En effet, tout départ clandestin risquerait de comporter des conséquences graves pour les israélites de bonne foi résidant en France et susceptibles, grâce au contingent, de se rendre régulièrement en Palestine.

Il/

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50

Il y a lieu de noter que M. Ségalat qui assistait
 au Conseil des Ministres au cours duquel a été traité le
 problème des réfugiés de l'Exodus, a indiqué à M. Bousquet
 que le Conseil s'était montré très évasif sur les mesures
 susceptibles d'être prises par la France pour éviter le
 retour des incidents qui avaient marqué le départ de
 l'Exodus.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61826

311

8

1947

E

E 8378

ST

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 8378/48/31

FROM

Clancy

No.

Bucharest

Dated

14/47/47

Received in Registry

25 Aug
11 Sept

Illegal Immigration Romania.
Refer to letter (E 677/48/31) given report on recent activities of A.I. R.C. in Romania, re attack by Communists demanding immediate resignation of M. Cortines.

Last Paper

8377

(Minutes.)

References

This is very good news. Up the Red Flag!

Copies to: C/O. M.I.S. Cabinet Office } usual names

(Print)

Southern Dept. 19/9.

N.A. Dept.

Northern Dept. 27/9/47.

J. E. Cable
(J.E. CABLE)
11/9

(How disposed of)

8/ Higham
Robertson
Coversed.
Sept 17.

Suits us in E. Dept: but we must not be too parochial
JB Sept 11

(Action completed)

J. E. Cable 29/9

(Index)

28/9/47

Next Paper

8380

38538

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Reference: FO 371 / 61826

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E 8378

E 52

Office of the British
Political Representative,
Bucharest.

SEP 1

28th August, 1947.
25.

74/47/47

Dear Department, 5/12/48/9

4553/48

Your letter (E 6717/48/31) of 29th July, our letters Nos. 74/22/47 and 74/27/47 of the 20th May and 11th June respectively and Mr. Holman's telegram NO. 443 about the American Joint Distribution Committee in Roumania: 26/2

2. Yesterday, the 25th August, the Communist Party made a frontal attack on the present management of the Committee. Since the departure of Mr. Jacobson, the American manager of the A.J.D.C. in Roumania, the Committee has been run by Mr. Costiner, Mr. Jacobson's former assistant. The Communists demanded the immediate resignation of Mr. Costiner and his replacement by two "democratic" nominees. Mr. Costiner asked the reasons for the demand and was told he was not acceptable. The Communists, when pressed for reasons, alleged that Mr. Costiner had not foreseen the stabilisation of the leu and the A.J.D.C. had been caught with 50 milliards of unconvertible lei. Mr. Costiner easily disposed of this accusation by asserting that he was being attacked for having refused to deal on the black market in dollars and gold, the only possible way to safeguard against the sudden depreciation of the old leu. Neither he nor any other citizen knew when the stabilisation would take place. To this the Communists gave no reply but increased their demands for his immediate resignation.

3. Mr. Costiner telephoned to Mr. Schwartz, European Representative of the A.J.D.C. residing at Paris, to ask for instructions. Mr. Schwartz decided to come to Roumania at once. When Mr. Costiner asked the Communists for a postponement of the question until Mr. Schwartz arrived, he was told that permission would not be given to Mr. Schwartz to enter Roumania owing to his reactionary attitude and a decision must be taken at once. There is little doubt that Costiner will have to go or, at least, to join a Board composed of a majority of Communists.

4. Kendall has seen two members of the Board of the Roumanian branch of the A.J.D.C. who left him in no doubt as to the meaning of this Communist move. All A.J.D.C. funds sent to Roumania in future will, they alleged, be used exclusively to impose Communist allegiance on the 4-500,000 Jews now living in Roumania. Dr. Filderman, who is afraid to enter the British or United States Legation buildings, told Kendall that he was on the point of publicly withdrawing from all Jewish bodies and institutions as he is in immediate danger of arrest by the Communists and yet refuses to continue to belong to any Jewish body which is obliged to lend itself to Communist political machinations.

5. The Near East Division of the State Department in Washington may be interested in these developments in Roumania, especially as henceforth A.J.D.C. funds will certainly be used rather for political than relief purposes.

6. We are sending a copy of this letter to Chancery at Washington.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office.

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References:

FO 371 / 61828

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E 8380

11 SEP 1948

PALESTINE

53

1947

Registry Number

E8380/48/31

FROM

Embassy

No.

Washington

Dated

20 9 48

Received in Registry

Sept 5

Protest re treatment of Jews in President Warfield.

Pages of correspondence with Emanuel Beller, in which he protests against US govt decision to send Jews to Germany.

Last Paper

8378

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

80
Sept 12

(Action completed)

G.L.M. 18/9

(Initials)

11/11/48

Next Paper

8410

(Minutes.)

copy to: C.O.

10/11/49
Defn.

Hubble
(C.J.-E. CABLE)

JB Sept 11 11/9

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61826

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No. 2098
 Ref. 84/136/47

54 E

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Washington presents his compliments to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Embassy
 Washington, D. C.

E 8380

September 5, 1947

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy letter to Emanuel Celler, Sept. 4, with enclosure "Communique on Palestine" and letter dated Sept. 2 from Representative Celler.	Protest re treatment of Jews from "President Warfield" being sent to Germany, and reply taken from B.I.S. communique, etc.

9.11.47

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61826

COPY

55
September 4th, 1947.

I write to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of September 2nd about the people taken from the "President Warfield", which I am sending on to London.

I think you will wish to see the enclosed text of the British Government's communique on this subject which explains the reasons which led to their decision.

(Sgd.) INVERCHAPEL

The Honourable
Emanuel Celler,
1450 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

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FO 371 / 61826

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56
COMMUNIQUE ON PALESTINE

H.M. Government early this morning (August 21) issued the following communique on the subject of the 4,554 Jewish illegal immigrants on board the three British ships off the South Coast of France:

"On the 18th July 4,554 Jews were intercepted on board the "President Warfield" in an attempt to enter Palestine illegally. In accordance with established international procedure and with the prior concurrence of the French Government they were returned to France where they had obtained forged documents and whence their ship had sailed without permission.

"The three British transports carrying the Jewish illegal immigrants arrived off Port de Bouc on July 29th, and French officials went on board to offer the passengers hospitality in France. Under the influence of persistent Zionist threats and propaganda the French Government's offer was rejected. In spite of this offer and of the official British announcement that in no circumstances would any of the illegal immigrants be taken to Cyprus or Palestine, only about 130 of the passengers have disembarked during the three weeks of their stay at Port de Bouc.

"It is clearly impossible to leave the three British transports indefinitely in French waters, and it has therefore been decided that, unless the Jews begin to disembark before 6 p.m. British Summer Time, August 22, the ships will sail for the British Zone of Germany where their passengers will be immediately disembarked. This is the only territory under British jurisdiction outside Cyprus where such a large number of people can be adequately housed and fed at short notice.

"H.M.G. are satisfied that the Jewish Agency have sufficient influence to persuade the illegal immigrants to land in France. They consider that, if the Jewish Agency really have the interests of these illegal immigrants at heart, they should be prepared to send a representative, for whose journey H.M.G. would afford every facility within their power, to Port de Bouc in order to make a last appeal to reason.

"In view of the wide publicity which this case has recently received and the frequent misrepresentations of British policy in this matter, it may be well to re-emphasize the following facts:

/"Pending

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"Pending a decision by the United Nations on the future of Palestine, H.M.G. are responsible not only for the maintenance of law and order in that country, but also for ensuring that nothing is done to prejudice the eventual decision of the United Nations.

"Immigration policy is of cardinal importance to the Palestine problem, and H.M.G. would have no justification in the present interim period for altering the existing Jewish immigration quota of 1,500 a month. The organizers of the illegal immigrant traffic are trying to exceed this quota with the object of upsetting the balance of population in the country and are thereby aggravating an already tense and delicate situation which has led to bloodshed between Arabs and Jews.

"H.M.G. are resolutely determined to combat the illegal immigrant traffic by every means at their disposal. The transfer of illegal immigrants to Cyprus has only encouraged the organizers of the traffic, and H.M.G. have therefore exercised in the case of the "President Warfield" their undoubted right to return illegal immigrants to the country where they embarked for Palestine.

"Since the French Government have offered to readmit all these Jews to France none of them are obliged to proceed to Germany unless of their own choice they decline the French offer. Meanwhile there are several thousand Jews in Germany today who would by now have been legally admitted to Palestine if they had not been pushed aside by the stream of illegal immigrants."

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61826

COPY

Congress of the United States,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

September 2, 1947.

The Right Honorable the Lord Inverchapel
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Office of the Embassy of Great Britain
3100 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

Both the majority and minority reports of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine recommend that the doors of Palestine be opened immediately to Jewish immigration. It seems, therefore, most deplorable and tragic that your Government remains adamant in its refusal to allow the 4400 Jewish refugees of the Exodus 1947, to enter Palestine.

They are on route to Hamburg from Gibraltar. The world watches with dismay the cruel treatment accorded these unfortunate victims of Hitler's fiendishness.

It would be an act of mercy if your Government would turn the ships back toward Palestine and allow these refugees to enter the Holy Land, now that the United Nations Special Committee has asked that the doors to Palestine remain open.

These long suffering refugees inspire admiration as well as wonder for their determination to enter the land of their fathers. Such fierce integrity of purpose should find reward at the hands of your Government.

With assurances of highest esteem, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) EMANUEL CELLER.

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Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

11 SEP 1947

Minutes.

(Enter) K

Confidential (By box)

To: Mr Rennie, President Warfield

60

May I have your obs. on the attached letter from Mr Kenney, please?

D.H. Woolrych
1/9/47

We have also, some time ago, asked Beith for the same breakdown, and he has asked the control people to do their utmost to supply it. In the meantime we are uncovering some pretty good stuff on the children on board, which has all the worst features of the 'Children's Crusade', the Pied Piper, and the Nazis in Poland.

D. Rennie 1/9

Mr Woolrych

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FO 371 / 61826

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61

Minutes.

Will you follow this up, please?

Sh,

2/ix/47

Mr. Thompson.

This story (Hungarian children) has been published here and in France. A further story on the camps at Poppendorf and Amstern has been sent to Paris.

J. S. Morrison

S/S

You might let me see the "further story" at some time. In the meantime you had better retain this and have it indexed.

Mr. Thompson

DW
9/ix

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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UOVV/MMR

PERSONAL AND SECRET

Ref. P4/57/18.

My dear Woolrych,

E 8439
10 SEP 1947

BRITISH EMBASSY,
PARIS.

27th August, 1947. *62*

Jewish Passengers from PRESIDENT WARFIELD

There is one long-term aspect of publicity on this which you might care to consider.

We have never been able to get any information about the countries of origin of these 4,500 Jews, except that the majority of them are supposed to have come from North-Eastern Europe, i.e. Poland. Yet Jewish organisations in their propaganda make a great feature of the fact that they have suffered already at German hands and that many of them have been "fighters for freedom" in the war.

Obviously any information about their past which can be discovered by the Intelligence officers who screen them on arrival in Germany might be of considerable value for our publicity - as also for use in Palestine and the United States, presumably. At our request Chancery have asked Beith (J.G.S. Beith, Eastern Department) to request Germany to find out any information bearing on the following points, and to let us have it:

- (a) The countries of origin of passengers.
- (b) How many have been in German concentration camps.
- (c) How many have fought against the Germans.
- (d) How many were known terrorists.

(The answer to (d) could probably not be used officially).

I thought that you, and News Department also, might like to have this information for general publicity which you may be arranging for release from London. Also, one knows that there may be a certain amount of "sales resistance" to a request like this all down the line, and especially at the Intelligence end, by people who do not visualise its possible value for publicity.

For these reasons I hope that if you agree you may be able to take a personal interest in our suggestion.

I implied to you that as recent Jewish spokesmen on the three ships had defended British troops, Jewish organisations might be realising that their line of attack on "the brutal soldiery" did not pay. I am afraid I was too optimistic, and HUMANITE and other papers continue to print filthy allegations against our troops. You will see also the photographs in the English papers to-day of the Union Jack with a swastika on it. I think you will agree that on this as on other aspects our publicity should take a strong and direct line.

Yours ever,
Mick Kenney.

Lt.-Colonel S.H.C. Woolrych, O.B.E.,
Western European Information Department,
Foreign Office,
London S.W.1.

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1947

454

Palestine
EASTERN

E8466 / G

17 SEP 47

63

E 8466 / 48 / 31/G

H.O. COMMS

Further interim report by
Mr Ruck to Italian Ministry
of Migration on illegal entry
into Italy.

Dated 25 Aug
Received 13 Sept.

Last Paper

E8465 (E8410)

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

(Index)

Next Paper

Western Dept. (Italian Section) ^{17/9}
German (Pol.) Dept. ^{22/9}
German (Refugee) Dept. ^{24/9}
German (Internal Affairs) Dept. ^{24/9}

Jalbe
LT.E-CABLE
15/9

JB Sept: 15

I agree with Mr Ruck, and since Jews who cross
from the U.S. Zone, not perhaps always without U.S. assistance,
sometimes get sent back to our Zone where there are quite
enough already to make things difficult, I think we should
support Mr Ruck's suggestion in para. 3.

German Pol. Dept. (Antism. Sec.) ^{29/9}

C.A. Thompson
22/9

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Reference: FO 371 / 61826

entw
E8466

13 SEP 1947
With the compliments of
H.M. Chief Inspector.

Immigration Branch,
Home Office,
~~40, Old Bailey,~~
~~W.C.1.~~
271 High Holborn
W.C.1.

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Palestine
EASTERN

E846Y/G
13 SEP 1947

455 1947

E 846Y/48/31/C

Illegal immigration from 66
French Morocco: 88. Pan York.

Mr. Sherwood
Rasai

JE Dep
4/19/32
Dated 6 Sep
Received 13 Sep

Last Paper

E 846b

References

E 8084/48/9

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8) c.o.
HIS
copy
1944 Sep

(Action completed)

JE 23/9

(Index)

16/11

Next Paper

(Minutes)

Copies to: c.o. (Mr. Higham)
H.S.S (Mr. Selman)
Labour Office (Mr. Evershed)

Western Dept. 21/9

13/9

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BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL,

RABAT.

6th September 1947. 13 SEP 1947

E8467/G

41/19/32

Confidential.

Dear Department,

E/G

3 Sept

67

With reference to Foreign Office telegram No. 35 of August 28th, regarding the arrival of the s.s. Pan York at Safi, and the possibility of her embarking Jewish illegal immigrants there, I was assured by the "Directeur des Services de Sécurité Publique" with whom I discussed the matter, and who seemed well disposed and co-operative, that the authorities here would do all they could to stop the departure of any Jews from the French Zone of Morocco. A close watch on shipping, he said, was being kept at all ports.

2. The police, he said, had recently been successful in stopping a large party of Jews leaving French Morocco for Algeria in the region of Oujda, and a very close watch was being kept on the frontier between Algeria and French Morocco.

3. The Resident General, General Juin, has, I am informed, sent a circular to the authorities in the Regions of Fez and Oujda, requesting them to keep a careful watch on the movement of Jews from Morocco into Algeria.

4. I am sending copies of this letter to Algiers and Casablanca.

Yours ever,

J. Greenwood

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London SW1.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61826

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1947

456

Palastine

EASTERN

E8468/G

13 SEP 1947

68

E8468/48/9 31/G

Arrangements for transport
conveying illegal immigrants.

5 Col Charters
w.o.

with cable
10/4/15/4/20/11
Dated 10 Sep
Received 13 Sep.

Last Paper

E8467

(Minutes)

[Signature]
15/9

References

E8076/48/9.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

25/9

(Index)

[Signature]

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61826

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From : Lt. Col. The Hon. M.M.C. Charteris, OBE.



THE WAR OFFICE,
WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

15 SEP 1947

MO 4/BM/2211

10 September, 1947. 69

Dear James.

Thank you very much for your letter No. E 8076/48/G dated 5th September, attaching a copy of the letter from His Majesty's Consul-General Marseilles to the British Embassy, Paris.

2. As far as the suggestions made in paragraph 3 of the Consul-General's letter are concerned, I entirely agree that transports used for conveying illegal immigrants should be fitted with loud speakers, and I will ensure that the idea gets to the right quarters. The provision of an officer in each ship, who can speak Hebrew and Yiddish is, however, a more difficult problem. We have learnt from recent experience in "Operation Oasis" how difficult it is to produce anyone who can speak these languages. After thorough enquiries we were only able to produce three NCO's who spoke Hebrew to screen the Warfield Jews at Hamburg. We could find no Yiddish interpreters at all. However, we will ensure that the latter proposal is given further investigation, and I, myself, agree that if we can find the officers, the suggestion is an excellent one.

Yours sincerely
Mark Charteris

J.E. Cable, Esq.,
Foreign Office.

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Palestine
EASTERN

E8503/G
15 SEP 1947

451
1947

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E8503/48/31/G
F.O. Min
Mr. Beith
dated 9 Sept
Received 15 Sept.

Arrangements proposed for
reception of volunteers among
President Warfield Jews in
France

Last Paper
E8468

(Minutes)

J.C.
(J.E. CABLE)
15/9
JB Sept. 16

References
E8308/48/C
E8307/48/C
E8306/48/C

(Print)

(How disposed of)

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(Index)

25/9

W.H.

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ES503

18 SEP 1947

71

Paris Telegrams Nos. 876, 877 and 878:
Arrangements proposed for, and Conditions
attached to, the Reception of "Volunteers"
from amongst the "President Warfield" Jews
In France.

All the Jewish illegal immigrants have now been landed at Hamburg and by this evening will be installed in their camps at Pöppendorf and Am Stau. It proved impossible to provide direct transport to France from the quayside, as this would have meant delaying the disembarkation. Moreover it will be seen from Paris telegrams Nos. 876 and 877 that the French railways require a week's notice and the French Government could not agree to receive a first party for approximately ten days.

The Secretary of State has minuted on Paris telegram No. 876: "I suppose we must accept, but the French after acting against us appear to be exacting now". To my mind these three Paris telegrams produce a deplorable affect and, on past form, we should have every reason to expect further procrastination and difficulties from the French side. After further consideration, however, I am inclined to think that, however suspicious we may be of French good faith in this matter, it will pay us best to give no signs of this and to work on the assumption that the French are really prepared to carry out their undertaking to receive back "volunteers".

The conditions stated in Paris telegram No. 877 are, so far as I can see, generally acceptable though I would draw attention to the following points:-

- (i) Under (A) the inter-departmental commission wish the collective passports to be presented to the French Consul-General at Hamburg by "representatives of Jewish organisations accompanied by British authorities". I do not know what Jewish organisations are meant and I do not see in any case what locus standi they have in this arrangement between the British and French authorities.
- (ii) Under (D) a French mission at the frontier will "check that persons named on the list are genuine volunteers". This might land us in last minute complications if the Jews ~~constantly~~ change their minds.

I have asked the Secretariat at Lübecke to let us know as soon as possible what arrangements are being made to call for volunteers. I think we might confirm this

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61826

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question in the annexed telegram. I think we may hope that a period of waiting amongst the forests of Poppendorf may lead an increasing number of Jews to volunteer for France and that we shall lose nothing by a few days' delay. We must expect continued opposition from the fanatics and even from certain Jewish organisations but I think that the immigrants themselves will begin to realise that they are being exploited by such people. I am in any case not inclined to give serious consideration to the proposition of the American Joint Distribution Committee reported in Paris Telegram No. 878 that we should grant a definite monthly quota of visas for Palestine open to Jews in France (and of course to "Warfield" Jews entering France as volunteers) as a kind of bait.

J. G. S. Beith

J. G. S. Beith.

9th September, 1947.

Tel send.

We can draft to Paris on receipt of the reply.

BAB 3
10.9

The French are having a press conference about their proposed arrangements at 4 pm. and I therefore attach a draft tel. to Paris in advance of a reply from Lubbecke. I gave the gist of this to Mr Ashken Clarke orally

J. G. S. Beith
Sept. 11

Seen by Mr Warner
BAB 11.9
11.9

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371 / 61826**

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458 1947

Palastine
EASTERN

E 8510 / G
15 SEP 1947 74

E 8510 / 48/2 31/6

Suspect ships

Weekly File

Sept 15-

Last Paper.
E 8503

(Minutes.)

References.

See within

1. Russells 345 13 Sept

Letter to Brussels, excusing them
from sending "nil returns!"
16/9

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) 11P 16 Sept
1st) Russells
Chancery
from E Dept
17th Sept

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

27/9

W.H.

Next Paper.

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E

75

Cypher/OTP

E8510
DEPARTMENTAL No. 1.
13 SEP 1947

FROM BRUSSELS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir H. Knatchbull Hugessen

No. 345 D. 3.50 p.m. 13th September, 1947
13th September, 1947 R. 6.25 p.m. 13th September, 1947

Repeated to Jerusalem

8 8 8 8 8 8

My telegram No. 340 of September 6th.

Weekly Report.

No change.

Please repeat to Jerusalem as my telegram No. 19.

[Copies sent to Colonial Office Telegraph Section
for repetition to Jerusalem]

RECEIVED
13 SEP 1947

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Do assume that there is nothing
to report.

Yours ever
Eastern Dept.

[Signature]
16/9

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1	2	3	4	5	6

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FO 371 / 61826

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OUT FILE.

78

FOREIGN OFFICE, S. W. 1.

17th September, 1947.

(E 8510/48/G)
RESTRICTED

Dear Chancery,

In our despatch No. 338 of the 9th May about the Weekly Lists of Suspect Shipping, we asked you (in paragraph 2) to let us have a weekly report of any changes in the situation at your ports. We did not, however, intend to put you to the unnecessary trouble of sending "no change" reports, such as your telegram No. 345.

2. In future, therefore, you need only send us reports as and when required. If we receive nothing, we shall merely assume that there is nothing to report.

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Brussels.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61825

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1949
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Palentine

EASTERN

E8511 /G
10 SEP 1949 79

E8511 /48/9 3/6

operation Oasis: Treatment of
immigrants not volunteering
to return to France

Subbecke
CCQ 11107

Dated 12 Sept
Received 15 Sept.

Last Paper.

E8510

(Minutes.)

Referred to Paris

Separate minute submitted
with draft instructions.

References.

E8035/48/9

JB Sept. 16

1. Subbecke CCQ 11346 to Kiel
23 Sept.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

1cc) to Subbecke
5539

2. CRO circ to Y86 24 Sept. 27/9

8/11P

18 Sept

23 Sept

3. CRO circ to 520 Saw 16 Oct. 24/10

(Action completed.)

25/29/9

(Index.)

W.H.

Next Paper.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61826

Instructions to the authorities of the British Zone of Germany with regard to the despatch to France of Jewish illegal immigrants from amongst the "President Warfield" Party.

10854

On September 13th a meeting was held at Norfolk House to consider Lubbecke telegram No. C.C.G.11107 of September, 12th. Colonel Gregson, the Officer Commanding the escorts on the three British Transports, was present.

The meeting agreed, in the light of the report from Lubbecke that "present indications are that negligible volunteers for France will be forthcoming" and the oral report of Colonel Gregson, that the prospects for returning a considerable number of the Jews were not encouraging. Colonel Gregson gave it as his opinion that even the treatment advocated by the Commander in Chief (i.e. the dispersal of the illegal immigrants with rail warrants and two days haversack rations to the various localities where work could be found for them) would not force the Jews to go to France. Moreover such treatment would not be in accordance with our previous line in regard to the despatch of the Jews to the British Zone, which was that we were sending them there as "the only place where they could be adequately housed apart from Cyprus." To turn the Jews forcibly loose into the German population would involve us in further odium without ensuring us any corresponding advantages.

A draft telegram of instructions to Lubbecke is submitted, which was prepared with the German Refugee Department and has the concurrence of the Colonial Office.

Mr Wagner
Sir G. Jenkins
18/9/47

H. S. Beith
(BEITH)
16th September, 1947.

[Signature]
17.9

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Reference: FO 371 / 61826

Advance copy: MR BEATT
 15 SEP 1947
 81

FROM LUBBECKE TO FOREIGN OFFICE (GERMAN SECTION)

CCG 11107

CONFIDENTIAL

12th September 1947

MOST IMMEDIATE

Repeated: Berlin

D 12.20 pm 12th September 1947

R 4.30 pm 12th September 1947

Operation OASIS:

EP035/148/9

Your telegram of 6th September No 4693 Basic repeated Berlin as 3083 Basic, para 3.

Treatment of Immigrants not volunteering to return to France.

We agree (a). Up to date, however, only approximately ten out of whole party have applied for IRO assistance in spite of attempts to persuade them. We shall therefore get no grant from IRO towards maintenance.

We strongly urge re-consideration (b). In our view it is most undesirable to increase permanent Jewish population in camps in the Zone. We would point out that to grant indefinite care and maintenance to this party will prejudice our present handling of illegal entrants into the Zone and in particular will seriously prejudice our agreement with ROSENBAUM that illegal entrants will not be admitted to Hohne camp which we believe he is honouring. To give way on this may well lead to large influx of illegal entrants in future to the Zone and to Hohne in particular, causing us great embarrassment. If they are given same treatment as other refugees they will have full freedom of movement within the Zone but if they are to be given full care and maintenance as you suggest their movements will be governed by normal rules applying to Displaced Persons. In either case all will remain eligible to go to France so long as the French offer holds. On this point present indications are that negligible numbers of volunteers for France will be forthcoming. It is evident that all refugees have been thoroughly schooled in the reply they are to give if this offer is made. If it is known that they can remain indefinitely in their camps under free care and maintenance and on their present ration scale (which is Basic German rations 1500 calories plus half the hospital scale making total of 2750 calories) we consider there will be no chance of any accepting the French offer. On the other hand if the alternative is definitely absorption into the German economy coupled with the necessity to work for a living the response might well be very different. We would

/would.....

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emphasise that we have no intention of turning them
haphazardly into the German population. We propose
the normal procedure for dealing with refugees. This is as
follows. Accommodation is found for them in a locality
where suitable work is available by which they can earn a
living. They are given a rail warrant to the nearest
station and two days haversack rations and despatched. The
German authorities in the chosen locality issue ration cards
and arrange for their employment.

We agree (c). Grateful for earliest possible
reply in order that we can take steps to ascertain which
refugees are prepared to go to France.

Above approved by Commander-in-Chief.

Action: Mr Beith (E 8035/48/G)
Distribution: CABINET
I.I.P.
Operation OASIS

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61826

Registry No.

KPS4/48/9

83

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

F. O.,

Despatched

1947/10/16
11.15 A.M.
282/10/48/9

J.G.S.B.

Draft.

IMMEDIATE: CONFIDENTIAL

Lubbecke

No 5539 Kuni

Your telegram No. CCG 11107 of

Telegram.

September 12: Jewish Illegal Immigration

No.....

My first aim is, as stated, to transfer

(Date).....

as many of the Jews as possible to France.

Repeat to:—

In the light of Paris telegram No *874*

Berlin - *3508*
Paris *1822 Sav*
Washington *9667*
Jerusalem

I have decided that it would be undesirable to attempt to force "non-volunteers" into

France, ^{since} ~~as~~ this would almost certainly prejudice

the whole operation. As it is, I note from your telegrams and the oral report of

Colonel Gregson that the prospects of securing

^a ~~the~~ substantial number of volunteers are not

encouraging. In deciding upon the terms of

our call for volunteers we have to take into

account two conflicting considerations:

(a) the desirability of offering those who choose to remain in Germany such treatment as will be likely to persuade them to go to France *and*

(b) the importance of preventing Jewish propaganda from suggesting that we are imposing penal conditions on the illegal immigrants.

2. We must recognise that, whatever conditions we offer in Germany, the Jews are so strongly disciplined and so imbued with a sense of their mission that they may very likely refuse

to/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Co. agree

M.S. Beins
Sept. 16

En Clair.
Code.
Cypher.

BAS
17.9

Distribution:—

Cabinet Distribution

Copies to:—

I.I.P.

23/9.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 6182F**

Off

~~arrangements~~ may not ~~be undertaken~~ to

to be split up and that ~~we shall secure few~~

Secure many

~~if any~~ volunteers. In these circumstances

full weight must be given to (b) above and I

Therefore

cannot agree to the procedure suggested in

your telegram under reference. This would

not be in accordance with our public

announcements that the Jews were being taken

to the British Zone as "the only destination

where we could provide adequate accommodation."

There is the further practical difficulty

that it would very likely be necessary to

use force to disperse the Jews and this could

not be justified before World opinion.

Nevertheless, we do not ~~intend~~

propose

that the camps

should continue to be guarded and it may be

after the first checking has taken place

found that some will leave of their own accord.

3. I recognise the difficulty you ~~have mention~~

~~stated~~ in regard to Rosensaft, but it is not

correct to state that the Jews are "illegal

entrants". There ~~would~~

need

be no question of

giving them D.P. status so long as they refused

to apply for I.R.O. assistance.

4. A Jewish representative has suggested

that the party should be transferred to Hühne.

I see no objection to this, subject to your

views and the concurrence of I.R.O., and the

transfer would have the positive advantage of

breaking down the isolation of this party.

5. There is no reason for the Jews to receive

more than the normal basic calory scale of

rations supplemented by what they may earn

for heavy work.

You should/

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Reference: **FO 371/61826**

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3148 Wt. 26469/137 50m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

Stating that their destination was Colombia.

85

6. You should now arrange to call for volunteers for France as soon as possible. I leave it to your discretion how the announcement should be made but I consider it important that the Jews should be given an opportunity to state their wishes individually. Following is the text of an announcement which it is proposed to make here at the same time as you call for volunteers, and I suggest that your announcement should be in similar terms:-

"The French Government have agreed to receive in France any of the "President Warfield" Jewish illegal immigrants who wish to go there. The French Government are prepared to receive them with approximately 10 days notice and it is understood that they will be accommodated in camps provided by the French Society "Entraide Francaise." The main object of H.M.G. in ~~returning~~ ^{removing} the illegal immigrants from Palestine waters was to ~~bring~~ ^{return} them to France, which country they had left without permission and with forged ~~Colombian~~ ^{documents} visas. H.M.G. therefore ~~attach the highest~~ ^{great} importance to the return of the illegal immigrants ~~will go~~ ^{hope that} to France and trust that all the Jewish organisations concerned will co-operate in this. If the Jews refuse, it ~~should~~ ^{will} be quite clear that they remain in the British Zone of Germany of their own free will.

H.M.G. have never expected to have to accommodate the illegal immigrants in Germany for more than a temporary period before their return to France. They are now ~~calling for~~ ^{making} ~~arrangements~~ ^{arrangements} for volunteers/

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arrangements for all those who are willing to do so

~~volunteers~~ to go to France, and in so doing
~~must make it clear what treatment~~ Those will
~~receive~~ who refuse transport to France and
choose to remain in Germany. ~~They~~ will
continue to be housed for the present in
camps provided by the British Authorities,
and I.R.O. have promised to consider the grant
of assistance to any who apply for it. As
soon ^{as} interrogation of the illegal immigrants
is finished, the camps will cease to be
guarded and the Jews will be free to move at
will. All German employees will be removed.

Since it is understood that the Jews
prefer to look after their own
quarters."

7. Please telegraph the ^{and text} hour of
your announcement so that
we may coordinate release
to Press.

[Signature]
18/9/47

9/317
(57)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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CYPHER
(Paraphrasing
unnecessary)

Exclus (S)

87

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE (GERMAN SECTION) TO LUB. ECKE

No 5539 Basic

CONFIDENTIAL

18th September 1947.

IMMEDIATE

Repeated: Berlin D 6.30 pm
as No 3508 Basic
Paris
Washington
Jerusalem

18th September 1947

Your telegram No CCG 11107 (of 12th September:
Jewish Illegal Immigration).

My first aim is, as stated, to transfer as many of the Jews as possible to France. In the light of Paris telegram No 874 I have decided that it would be undesirable to attempt to force QUOTE non-volunteers UNQUOTE into France, since this would almost certainly prejudice the whole operation. As it is, I note from your telegrams and the oral report of Colonel GREGSON that the prospects of securing a substantial number of volunteers are not encouraging. In deciding upon the terms of our call for volunteers we have to take into account two conflicting considerations:

- (a) The desirability of offering those who choose to remain in Germany such treatment as will be likely to persuade them to go to France and
- (b) The importance of preventing Jewish propaganda from suggesting that we are imposing penal conditions on the illegal immigrants.

2. We must recognise that, whatever conditions we offer in Germany, the Jews are so strongly disciplined and so imbued with a sense of their mission that they may very likely refuse to be split up and that we may not secure many volunteers. In these circumstances full weight must be given to (b) above and I cannot therefore agree to the procedure suggested in your telegram under reference. This would not be in accordance with our public announcements that the Jews were being taken to the British Zone as QUOTE the only destination where we could provide adequate accommodation UNQUOTE. There is the further practical difficulty that it would very likely be necessary to use force to disperse the Jews and this could not be justified before world opinion. Nevertheless, we do not propose that the camps should continue to be guarded after the first checking has taken place and it may be found that some will leave of their own accord.

3. I recognise the difficulty you mention in regard to

/ROSENS.AFT.....

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61826

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ROSENSAFT, but it is not correct to state that the Jews are QUOTE illegal entrants UNQUOTE. There need be no question of giving them D.P. status so long as they refuse to apply for I.R.O. assistance.

4. A Jewish representative has suggested that the party should be transferred to Hohn. I see no objection to this, subject to your views and the concurrence of I.R.O., and the transfer would have the positive advantage of breaking down the isolation of this party.

5. There is no reason for the Jews to receive more than the normal basic calory scale of rations supplemented by what they may earn for heavy work.

6. You should now arrange to call for volunteers for France as soon as possible. I leave it to your discretion how the announcement should be made but I consider it important that the Jews should be given an opportunity to state their wishes individually. Following is the text of an announcement which it is proposed to make here at the same time as you call for volunteers, and I suggest that your announcement should be in similar terms:-

QUOTE: The French Government have agreed to receive in France any of the QUOTE President Warfield UNQUOTE Jewish illegal immigrants who wish to go there. The French Government are prepared to receive them with approximately 10 days notice and it is understood that they will be accommodated in camps provided by the French Society QUOTE Entraide Francaise UNQUOTE. The main object of H.M.G. in removing the illegal immigrants from Palestine waters to return them to France, which country they had left without permission and with forged documents stating that their destination was Colombia. H.M.G. therefore hope that the illegal immigrants will go to France and trust that all the Jewish organisations concerned will co-operate in this. If the Jews refuse, it will be quite clear that they remain in the British Zone of Germany of their own free will.

H.M.G. have never expected to have to accommodate the illegal immigrants in Germany for more than a temporary period before their return to France. They are now making arrangements for all those who are wishing to do so to go to France. Those who refuse transport to France and choose to remain in Germany will continue to be housed for the present in camps provided by the British authorities, and I.R.O. have promised to consider the grant of assistance to any who apply for it. As soon as interrogation of the illegal immigrants is finished, the camps will cease to be guarded and the Jews will be free to move at will. All German employees will be removed since it is understood that the Jews prefer to look after their own quarters. UNQUOTE.

7. Please telegraph the hour and text of your announcement so that we may co-ordinate release to Press.

/Originator.....

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CYPHER
(Paraphrasing
unnecessary)

26 SEP 1947

90

INWARD TELEGRAM

E8115
26 SEP 1947

FROM LUBBOCKE TO KIEL

OCG 11346

CONFIDENTIAL

23rd September 1947

IMPORTANT

Repeated: Foreign Office
(German Section)
Berlin
Herford (FR/ISC)

D 3.25 pm

23rd September 1947

R 4.00 am

24th September 1947

Operation OASIS.

Reference No 5539 Basic of 18th September repeated
to you.

Confirming telecon RIDDONS-WALKINS a.m. 25th September.

Reference penultimate sentence para 6 of a/m telegram
amend "Interrogation" to read "questioning". For Foreign
Office (German Section). This amendment was made at
request of Intelligence Division in order to obviate any
unfortunate inference that the word interrogation may suggest.
You may care to amend your announcement accordingly.

Immediate
Information: Sir Gilmour Walkins

Distribution: CABINET
OASIS
I.I.P.

G/317
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AFR/RHR

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With the Compliments of the
Under Secretary of State for Commonwealth

29 SEP 1947

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mu 91

26 SEP 1947

Any telegraphic retransmission of this secret cypher (publex)
telegram must be prepared in a one-time system.

COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS
OUTWARD TELEGRAM FROM ~~SECRETARY'S~~ OFFICE

F.
CYPHER (PUBLEX)

E 8571/43G

O.D.

TO: CANADA (GOVT.)
AUSTRALIA "
NEW ZEALAND "
SOUTH AFRICA "

(Sent 8.45 p.m. 24th Sept., 1947.)

D. No. 786 SECRET.

My telegram 12th September D. No. 763 paragraph 5.

"PRESIDENT WARFIELD"

Commander-in-Chief, United Kingdom Zone of Germany has been instructed to call for volunteers for France from Jewish illegal immigrants originating from "President Warfield". Announcement will be made in camps on 25th September and will be repeated on following two days. Position will then be reviewed in light of response received.

2. Announcement will be in following terms. Begins.

French Government have agreed to receive in France any Jewish illegal immigrants from "President Warfield" who wish to go there. French Government require approximately ten days notice of their arrival and it is understood that they will be accommodated in camps provided by French Society "Entraide Francaise". Main object of His Majesty's Government in United Kingdom in removing illegal immigrants from Palestine waters was to return them to France, which country they had left without permission and with forged documents stating that their destination was Colombia. His Majesty's Government in United Kingdom therefore hope that illegal immigrants will go to France and trust that all Jewish organisations concerned will co-operate in this. If Jews refuse, it will be quite clear that they will remain in United Kingdom Zone of Germany of their own free will.

His Majesty's Government in United Kingdom have never expected to have to accommodate illegal immigrants in Germany for more than a short period before their return to France. They are now making arrangements for all those who wish to do so to go to France. Those who refuse transport to France and choose to remain in Germany will be accommodated in camps provided by United Kingdom authorities. Those who volunteer to return to France will continue to receive present generous ration scale of approximately 2800 calories per day. Those who choose to remain in Germany will receive same basic scale of rations as that received by normal consumer. International Refugee Organisation have promised to consider any Jews who apply for and qualify as eligible for grant of care and assistance.

As soon as interrogation of illegal immigrants is finished, camps will cease to be guarded and barbed wire will be removed. Ends.

Copy to:- Foreign Office Mr. F.T.A. Ashton-Gwatkin
Mr. J.P.G. Finch (4)
C.R.O. (King Charles St) Mr. H. Beeley
Mr. K. Barnes (4)

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Reference: FO 371 / 61826

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With the Compliments of the
Under-Secretary of State for Commonwealth
Relations.

20 OCT 1947

ESSW/48/9
21 OCT 1947

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mw
END

OUTWARD SAVING TELEGRAM

(BY AIR MAIL)

F.

O.D.

FROM: COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE

TO: CANADA (GOVT.)
AUSTRALIA "
NEW ZEALAND "
SOUTH AFRICA "

(Sent 16th Oct., 1947.)

D.No. 520 SAVING CONFIDENTIAL

My telegram 24th September D.No.786.

"PRESIDENT WARFIELD"

Announcement in camps has had little effect so far.
Only three volunteers for France have come forward.

2. Situation in both camps remains quiet. Immigrants
are now receiving normal German rations, but voluntary
societies are supplying food in considerable quantities
and there have therefore been no reactions to food cuts.

3. Only six Jews have applied for I.R.O. assistance.

Copy to:-

Foreign Office Mr. F.T.A. Ashton-Gwatkin
Mr. J.P.G. Finch (4)
Mr. H. Beclay
C.R.O. (King Charles Street) Mr. K. Barnes (4)

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61826

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